

2016 Conferences offer Compelling Programs



Boise and Fort Hall will be the locations of the 2016 Bench-Bar conferences, which begin with the biennial conference in Eastern Idaho.

Fort Hall Conference

Scheduled for Friday, September 23, the conference will take place at the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center. There is much to discuss in 2016 about the world of the federal courts in Idaho, and the judges and the courts' clerk executives look forward to this annual rendezvous with the practicing Bar.

After hearing reports from the courts' chief judges on the state of the federal judiciary, the program will begin with a Chamber's view of the implementation of the 2015 changes to the civil rules, with the discussion led by Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill and career staff attorney David Metcalf. Next, an all-star lineup goes over important tips and potential pitfalls for preserving the appeal record and presenting your case on appeal. Ninth Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith will bring his particularly relevant perspective to that conversation.

The experts return for the afternoon program, which begins with break-out sessions on the following:

- a. Hot and emerging issues in employment law and litigation. Steve Berenter of Boise and DeAnne Casperson of Idaho Falls will reprise an updated version of this program, which brought rave reviews at last year's Boise conference. This program will be presented at the Fort Hall conference only;
- b. The fundamentals of intellectual property law that every lawyer needs to know to protect their clients. What you don't know about this field of law can hurt you, and Brad Frazer and Ryan McFarland will bring you up to speed; and
- c. The danger zones and preventative measures you should know to steer your clients between the Scylla and Charybdis passages of false statements and financial fraud. Experts from the U.S. Attorney's office and the federal criminal defense bar will help you understand that this is definitely an area of the law where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The program then returns to a plenary session featuring Professor Emeritus and Past Dean Donald Burnett of the University of Idaho College of Law, who will share his considerable expertise and extraordinary speaking skills to his topic of "A Lawyer's Lifecycle of Professional Responsibility." This section of the program promises to be educational and inspirational for lawyers at every stage of their career.

The conference will conclude with the Judges' Panel discussion of contemporary topics and issues facing the Idaho federal courts, with an opportunity for questions and answers. Click here for the full [agenda](#), [speakers' bios](#), and [registration](#).

Boise Conference

The Boise program, set for Friday, Oct. 28 at its usual location of the Boise Centre on the Grove, will be headlined by [Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas](#), our neighbor from Montana. Judge Thomas, who addressed the conference two years ago on the eve of his beginning work as the Ninth Circuit Chief Judge, will talk about the current state of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and important initiatives he is pursuing in his work as chief judge. We hope to enlist his insight and assistance with other parts of the program as well, which will include the same topics and faculty as described above for the Fort Hall conference.

Each conference will include a first-class luncheon, along with remarks from Walt Sinclair, the current president of the Idaho chapter of the Federal Bar Association. (Starting this year, the Idaho chapter is partnering with the Idaho federal courts in presenting the annual conferences.) We have invited other special guests to participate in the program on matters of importance to the Idaho federal judiciary. As

those details are finalized, the [program details](#) will be updated.

As always, the conferences are remarkable values. The cost is only \$75 for lawyers and \$35 for law clerks, including the luncheon. Law students can attend for free, but without the luncheon. [Click here for more registration information.](#)